

1 I've was not sure that I was hearing
2 right, people using the word duopoly, diopoly
3 (sic) and it sounded a whole lot like monopoly.
4 And I think I heard them justifying encouraging
5 you all to monopolize the media even more than it
6 already is. I mean, have I died and gone to Hell
7 or what?

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. MAESTAS: You know have I got 22,
10 21?

11 You know what? Let it be noted that
12 five white guys either, either decided on behalf
13 of the people, of all the people of all colors,
14 or decided against us. When you make your
15 decision, history will note how that one came
16 down.

17 Thank you very much.

18 (Applause.)

19 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Andrea Cano.

20 MS. CANO: (Untranslated Spanish.)

21 My name is Andrea Cano, and I am
22 Director of the Oregon Farm Worker Ministry and

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1 also one of the founding members of the Oregon
2 Alliance to Reform Media.

3 The media alliance was created in the
4 wake of a similar event like this held in 2004,
5 on June 24th. Recall that was same day that the
6 Third Circuit Court ruled in favor of the
7 citizens' petition on the FCC's proceedings, and
8 without that historic decision we all would not
9 be here this evening.

10 In the last three years, our alliance
11 has led some TV license challenges for failure to
12 cover local elections, radio license challenges
13 for localism noncompliance, and campaigns against
14 legislation that would eliminate our much needed
15 community media and access channels.

16 Tonight, though, I want to remind you
17 of the findings of the 2006 Cooper Report that
18 speaks to what cross-ownership mergers would mean
19 to the state of Oregon. The people of Portland,
20 Eugene, and Medford would suffer threats to
21 democratic discourse resulting in inordinate
22 influence on public opinion and a market

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1 concentration that will drive out competition for
2 small and independent businesses.

3 Our small towns will be further
4 voiceless. Our racial, ethnic, and immigrant
5 communities will be further isolated.

6 So Commissioners, why would we want
7 out-of-state people to dictate what our local
8 communities need?

9 So we not only say no to loosening the
10 rules, but also three yeses. Yes to a
11 nonpartisan, open, and transparent FCC
12 governance.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. CANO: Yes, to a responsive FCC
15 that values public comment is what millions of
16 Americans need and want in their media
17 environment. And yes for citizens and consumers
18 to participate in media policy development with
19 you and Congress because it strengthens
20 democracy. And that's why we here this evening.

21 Thank you.

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

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1 David Boze.

2 MR. BOZE: I'm all for a debate on
3 consolidation of the media, but I think it has to
4 be grounded in reality, and for that I offer my
5 experience in broadcasting.

6 I work for KGTH, a Bonneville station
7 with a lineup of conservative hosts. Yes, most
8 of us share a relatively conservative world view,
9 but there is a wide variety of opinion within
10 that perspective. Disagreements on issues from
11 religion to gas taxes, from Iraq to local ballot
12 issues, they come up day to day, host to host,
13 caller to caller.

14 And if you listen to 1090, Air
15 America, you'd find that they have a variety of
16 opinions within a different world view, a liberal
17 world view. Same thing with KUOW, taxpayer
18 subsidized liberal world view. So you get these
19 perspectives from talk radio.

20 On the shows I've worked on views are
21 sought out, disagreeing views, opposing views.
22 Opposing callers are always jumped to the head of

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1 the line on every show I've worked with and
2 that's liberal or conservative show.

3 The invited guests range from
4 scientists to everyday citizens, politicians of
5 both major parties and some third parties. It's
6 true that not every politician takes advantage of
7 that opportunity, including some that were
8 lamenting the lack of media availability at the
9 beginning of this forum.

10 Virtually every show has open lines so
11 the diversity of expression is only limited by
12 the number of phone lines or the people with the
13 courage to actually make the call.

14 One more thing at each company that
15 I've, that I've worked at they devoted hours of
16 prime broadcast time to covering local issues,
17 initiatives, candidates, controversies and local
18 charity efforts. For example, Fisher raised more
19 than \$125,000 for Seattle Children's Hospital.
20 My current employer Bonneville provides financial
21 incentives for us to aid local charities.

22 In short, by my experience these media

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1 corporations have not shut down debate. They've
2 expanded it. They've made it interactive, and
3 they haven't abused their communities. They've
4 served them.

5 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

6 David Deshler.

7 MR. DESHLER: Hello. I'm David
8 Deshler.

9 AUDIENCE: Louder.

10 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Use the mic.

11 MR. DESHLER: I'm an Emeritus
12 Professor from Cornell University.

13 And based on the past actions of this
14 -- for the last seven years of the majority
15 members of the FCC I believe that my cynicism
16 regarding this hearing is justified.

17 (Applause.)

18 MR. DESHLER: I believe that the
19 decision regarding media consolidation has
20 already been bought and paid for by large
21 corporate media interests.

22 (Applause.)

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1 MR. DESHLER: And that I am colluding
2 through this hearing in a public relations
3 exercise that makes a mockery of democracy.

4 As is already been pointed out, the
5 FCC's only staff research regarding the negative
6 effects of consolidation on local diversity of
7 media was deep-sixed for a while, and I can't
8 bring myself to believe that holding hearings now
9 will produce contrary evidence, so the hearings
10 must be cosmetic. Tell me it isn't so.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. DESHLER: Over the years I have
13 studied American history, and I have over time
14 came to -- come to the conclusion that
15 investigative reporting is central to democracy.

16 (Applause.)

17 MR. DESHLER: So I ask you where is
18 investigative reporting and investigative
19 journalism now in the corporate media?
20 Investigative journalism failed America in the
21 lead up to this war.

22 (Applause.)

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1 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

2 Sarah VanGelder.

3 MS. VanGELDER: Thank you very much.

4 I'm Sarah VanGelder. I'm the
5 executive editor of Yes magazine.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. VanGELDER: Good independent
8 journalism and diverse perspectives are critical
9 for our democracy and to our future. And our
10 nation is facing some enormous challenges.
11 Fortunately, we are also a nation full of
12 creative, can-do people who are working to solve
13 those challenges. These are not the same
14 Washington insiders you see over and over again
15 on the corporate media.

16 They are often women. Many are people
17 of color. Many are young. These are people who
18 write in Yes magazine, and these are the people
19 whose stories we tell in Yes. But rarely will
20 you see these kind of diverse voices and
21 perspectives in the corporate media.

22 Let me give you some examples of

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1 stories we're covering. We are covering stories
2 about people who are creating green jobs to
3 address poverty and to address climate
4 disruption. We're talking about people who are
5 restoring local food systems that have been
6 undermined by corporate agriculture. We're
7 talking about people building green local energy.

8 We're talking about people defending
9 our civil liberties and the integrity of our
10 vote. We're talking about the people who are
11 showing how to stop the WTO and the corporate
12 globalization both internationally and like we
13 did right here in Seattle.

14 Many Americans don't know these
15 creative can-do people exist. The corporate
16 owned media focuses on sensational stories that
17 hit the adrenalin button. Polished deficient
18 statements with no fact checking get repeated.
19 Video press releases from deep pocketed special
20 interests run as though they were news.

21 A democracy in which citizens hear
22 about their local heroes is strengthened. A

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1 country in which our public airwaves are
2 monopolized by giant corporations for their own
3 profit and political interest will descend into
4 cynicism. These trends are weakening our
5 country. They're weakening America. If you
6 press forward with this media consolidation --

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

8 MS. VanGELDER: -- you are weakening
9 our democracy.

10 (Applause.)

11 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Fran Korten.

12 MS. KORTEN: My name is Fran Korten.
13 I'm the publisher of Yes magazine. I want to
14 thank you for coming to the Northwest, and I am
15 proud to be a member of this incredibly vibrant
16 community of people who care so passionately
17 about our democracy.

18 I operate in a sector that suffers
19 from consolidation, the independent publishing
20 industry which illustrates some of the problems
21 of media consolidation.

22 As you go through airports you may

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1 notice that in the bookstores the magazines all
2 look the same. You won't find Yes Magazine
3 there. You won't find many of your favorite
4 independent publications because we are locked
5 out by the big consolidated publishing houses.

6 Recently the Postal Regulatory
7 Commission changed the rates. The rate change
8 was written by the lawyers of Time Warner. And
9 they very much benefit the big publishers, and
10 they hugely punish the small publishers like my
11 own publication.

12 So we see again and again the
13 devastating effects that media consolidation have
14 on small players. Big players get bigger. They
15 get more power. They can change the rules. And
16 it's government's job to counterbalance the
17 tendency for the big to get bigger.

18 (Applause.)

19 MS. KORTEN: And that is your job to
20 protect the public interest against the natural
21 market forces of consolidation, and I hope that
22 you will play that public service role.

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1 Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

4 Carl Kucharski. Carl Kucharski.

5 AUDIENCE: Not here.

6 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Not here.

7 John Klockner.

8 MR. KLOCKNER: Hello. I'm John
9 Klockner. I'm the executive director of Puget
10 Sound Access, a PEG station which serves 25,000
11 people in the southern serve of Seattle. We've
12 heard today that some responsible media
13 organizations do some good things for their
14 communities that might otherwise not be possible
15 had they not had the privilege of having multiple
16 outlets in a single community.

17 AUDIENCE: Louder. Microphone.

18 MR. KLOCKNER: I'm sorry.

19 Quite frankly, I admire some of these
20 activities. I admire their corporate
21 responsibility and citizenship. I think that
22 these companies are in many cases doing a fine

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1 job.

2 But in truth that's only some people,
3 some entities that are doing that fine work for
4 the community. These are only some people that
5 are making those decisions. Some people that are
6 choosing which activities and organizations to
7 support.

8 What about the rest of us? Where is
9 the voice of those people that are not part of
10 that possibility? In the spectrum where do we
11 fit in?

12 I urge the FCC to allow a diversity of
13 people to have a local voice in using community
14 media to help and expand our local activity.

15 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

16 (Applause.)

17 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Timothy Karr.

18 MR. KARR: Hi, I'm Timothy Karr. I'm
19 the campaign director for Free Press, the
20 national media reform group.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. KARR: I'm also a native of

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1 Seattle, and I'm very pleased that you chose the
2 city as the last of your six visits on this tour.
3 I've been to -- or I've watched, listened to, or
4 attended all of these hearings. The sentiments
5 heard in Seattle echo those voiced in Los
6 Angeles, Nashville, Tampa, Harrisburg, and
7 Chicago.

8 The public has made one thing clear in
9 all of this. We firmly believe media
10 consolidation is a bad thing. This is not just
11 evident in the passion that you see in all of us
12 here tonight, it's a fact reflected in the public
13 record.

14 My group, Free Press, has done some
15 counting. Of the people who filed comments at
16 the FCC on the issue in 2003, more than 99
17 percent were against any further media
18 consolidation. In case you missed that point let
19 me say it again. 99 percent of the commenting
20 public was against any rules that would --

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. KARR: -- allow a single company

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1 to gobble up more radio and televisions stations.
2 But don't just listen to me. Check your own
3 information.

4 The Commission has claimed that cross-
5 owned stations do more local news, but Free Press
6 looked at the FCC's data and found that markets
7 with cross-owned stations produce fewer total
8 minutes of local news.

9 Given your own evidence here, what
10 possible reason would you have to dismantle
11 ownership limits?

12 And an industry representative sitting
13 on a panel tonight wrote in the Seattle Times
14 this week that broadcasters need you to strip
15 away these rules in order to survive in the
16 internet age. That simply isn't true.

17 FCC data indicates that outside of the
18 very largest markets, there is no financial
19 benefit from the creation of cross-owned and
20 duopoly combinations.

21 So here you have it. The public
22 passion agrees with your own data. Despite what

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1 high paid industry lobbyists have told you, media
2 consolidation is bad for all of us.

3 The public has spoken. It's now up to
4 you to listen to us and stop writing blank checks
5 to big media.

6 (Applause.)

7 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

8 Before I announce the next speaker, I
9 wanted to note that it's 7:15. Some of you may
10 have noticed we're a bit behind schedule. To
11 make up some of that time, we're going to forego
12 a break this evening and we're going to continue
13 on with the public comment period.

14 I want to announce the next group of
15 people before I announce the next speaker.
16 Starting with No. 21 Erajhna Anderson, Steve
17 Anderson, Jim Tune, Bill Wippel, Robert Zuh-vair-
18 inna, Robin Cameen, Steve Ramsey, Jerome Edge,
19 Stephen Silha, and Holly Pinkham.

20 Would Fred Schaich?

21 MR. SCHAICH: My name is Fred Schaich.
22 I'm a board member and TV producer at Portland

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1 Community Media in Portland, Oregon.

2 As a founder of the International
3 Foundation for Alternative Research in AIDS, I'm
4 lead producer. I have produced more than 350 one-
5 hour health focused programs in the last seven
6 years about everything from influenza to
7 childhood obesity, to Alzheimer's disease to HIV
8 and AIDS.

9 The programs and program content is
10 developed by local doctors and local nurses,
11 naturopaths, and people living with and
12 preventing disease in our community.

13 We give full measure of information in
14 our programming in many cases about diseases that
15 only affect a few people. Nevertheless, it's
16 important that all people get complete
17 information that improves their health that
18 commercial media cannot produce and still be
19 profitable.

20 As big media gets bigger so will the
21 advertising costs until only the people who run
22 ads will be huge corporations snuffing out small

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1 businessmen with big box stores and big bank
2 budgets.

3 Since I believe this country is still
4 of, by and for the people, we should seek ways to
5 encourage broader participation in whatever
6 current communication mediums are being used by
7 we the people.

8 This country began a soapbox -- as a
9 soapbox in a town square and town hall meetings.
10 Today we depend upon town hall meetings produced
11 on TV and radio. We now stand on the soapboxes
12 of our rich public, education, and government
13 cable access programming, pod casting, web
14 casting, and internet video. And our youth
15 benefits from community education in the
16 classroom about and through TV.

17 I support the development of media
18 ownership rules, not abolishment. I support net
19 neutrality, not the net for only the wealthy.
20 This is all about rebuilding a sense of fairness
21 for all Americans, citizens and --

22 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

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1 MR. SCHAICH: -- consumers alike.

2 Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

5 Amanda Anderson.

6 MS. ANDERSON: Thank you for the
7 opportunity to speak. My name is Amanda Anderson
8 and I'm 12 years old.

9 I will start with an opening question.
10 Why does the news mean so much to democracy?

11 AUDIENCE: Louder.

12 MS. ANDERSON: Good quality news is
13 important to a democracy because citizens can't
14 make informed decisions without reliable
15 information and being able to check with other
16 resources, not just one monopoly. Just because
17 one resource shouts out louder than the others
18 doesn't make it true, but corporate media
19 obviously missed the lesson most of us learned in
20 sixth grade to double check your sources.

21 (Applause.)

22 MS. ANDERSON: The media never does a

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1 story from a free-minded journalist. Now all
2 there is is corporate puppets, or if not, they're
3 unemployed. I believe a more diverse media
4 ownership would be healthier for our democracy.

5 My father, Steve Anderson, volunteers
6 at the Seattle Indymedia video collective called
7 Pepper Spray Productions. Pepper Spray has been
8 filming since 11 a.m. My father volunteers
9 because he believes it is his civic duty.

10 From what I have experienced with
11 Indymedia and community media is they cover real
12 stories important to real people and communities.
13 What I have experienced with corporate media is
14 that they appeal to the lowest common
15 denominator.

16 I may only be 12 but the decisions and
17 the law you make will be my future.

18 Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Thank you.

21 Erajhna Anderson.

22 MS. ANDERSON: I'm Erajhna Anderson,

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1 and I'm 12 years old. I'm against corporate
2 media consolidation because kids are the future,
3 and that's me. Why do we fight for democracy in
4 other countries, but you will take -- you will
5 give our democracy away?

6 Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Steve Anderson.

9 MR. ANDERSON: Yes, those are my kids.

10 (Applause.)

11 I'm not much of a public speaker.
12 This makes me nervous as hell.

13 So I'm a video activist. I thank you
14 for the opportunity to make our voices heard on
15 the public record.

16 As a person interested in history,
17 I've personally witnessed local mainstream media
18 get the story wrong on several occasions on
19 issues I've witnessed or were involved in.
20 Because of the time limit I'm going to skip the
21 long explanation to get my point -- to get to my
22 point.

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1 When corporate media is lazy or
2 corrupt by local big business, they record our
3 history wrong. When I heard eight years ago about
4 media consolidation, I knew what it meant, and I
5 became a media activist for the sake of history.

6 I'd been aware of alternate media and
7 found it refreshing to hear stories about things
8 that mattered to me, like real in-depth coverage
9 of the war by un-imbedded reporter Dahr Jamal and
10 Amy Goodman.

11 Okay, hold on a second.

12 (Laughter.)

13 MR. ANDERSON: I've discovered great
14 independent films about foreign policy, history,
15 and public affairs. When I speak with people in
16 my family about these issues, like including
17 media consolidation, they tell me, "But our media
18 is so liberal. They would definitely tell us if
19 these were true."

20 When the Supreme Court decided in
21 favor of Fox News that the news doesn't have to
22 be truthful, how many times do you think that

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1 story was told in rural America?

2 You know I volunteer for Indymedia
3 Video Collective Pepper Spray Productions. I
4 don't want to do this. This is something -- I'm
5 not a media person. I'm a sculptor. I do this
6 to support my friends and my heroes at Pepper
7 Spray and Reclaim the Media and because corporate
8 media does a poor quality job of covering
9 important local news and national stories that
10 matter to me.

11 (Applause.)

12 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Jim Tune.

13 MR. TUNE: Good evening. Thank you
14 for being here for the hearing and to listening
15 to all this tonight.

16 I'm Jim Tune. I'm the president of a
17 little art group called Arts Fund that raises and
18 contributes funds to nonprofit arts organizations
19 in King County and Pierce County ranging from the
20 very small to the very large.

21 We are as a fund raiser dependent on
22 the good will and the assistance of the media.

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1 But like President Emmert of the University of
2 Washington, I am not expert enough in the issues
3 or in the existing rules or the proposed rules to
4 offer you an opinion on the basis of anything
5 other than rhetoric, and I would choose not to do
6 that.

7 However, I will give you a brief
8 story. Some years back the Boeing Company moved
9 its headquarters from Seattle to Chicago. The
10 community was extremely apprehensive that this
11 meant that our most important community citizen
12 would withdraw its support. It did not.

13 A parallel is the sale of King
14 Broadcasting some years back to Belo. King had a
15 long history in Seattle. It was a founder of our
16 group, Arts Fund. It supported it with funds and
17 board representation and community volunteers.

18 I'm here to say tonight that Belo
19 still does that, that King Broadcasting continues
20 to provide us with corporate support, with
21 leadership on our board, with volunteers who help
22 us raise money, and with people who train our

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1 volunteers. So I believe that they are
2 discharging their responsibility to the community
3 in fulfilling community service.

4 And I would add that I agree with the
5 professor from Washington State University that
6 you are the stewards of our media, that the
7 public own the airwaves and that in determining
8 whether to license or re-license you need to look
9 at whether the licensees are discharging their
10 community responsibilities, and I believe that
11 Belo is.

12 Thank you.

13 (Applause.)

14 MODERATOR SIGALOS: Bill Wippel.

15 MR. WIPPEL: My name is Bill Wippel.
16 I'm former news director for Kiro Radio, and I
17 have 58 years' experience in broadcasting.

18 The arguments to further relax media
19 ownership are built on fables, perpetrated by
20 lobbyists or mega media.

21 Fable one: There are twice as many
22 radio stations on air since 1970; therefore,

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